

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7740

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T AMMAN 2314

EXDIS

DEPT REPEAT USCINCEUR HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS JO SA US UR

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE

REF (A) STATE 103212(TOSEC 110314,), (B) STATE 104068 (TOSEC 110385)

1. SAW KING JUST AFTER 1900 APRIL 30. TOLD HIM I HAD REPORT FOR HIM ON

WHERE WE STOOD AND A RECOMMENDATION AND THAT I WANTED HIS ADVICE.

2. I THEN SET OUT MAIN POINTS IN REFTEL (A) I PUT STRESS ON PROGRESS I THOUGHT WE HAD MADE IN SAUDI ARABIA ON BASIS CROWN PRINCE'S REPORTS AND CONVERSIONS WHICH AMBASSADOR PORTER HAD BEEN HAVING. TOLD HIM THAT WE FELT WE NEEDED MORE TIME FOR SAUDI DECISION. I DESCRIBED FOR HIM PRICE TAG ATTACHED TO PHASE ONE AND TOLD HIM IT INCLUDED ALL THE ESSENTIAL ITEMS FOR AN OPERATIONS AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. I DID NOT DESCRIBE PHASE TWO FOR HIM AND HE DID'NT ASK ABOUT IT.

3. I THEN PUT HEAVY STRESS ON CONTRACT EXTENSION AND FACT THAT IT COULD ONLY BE FROM DAY TO DAY AND THAT WE WERE READY SKATING ON SOME THIN ICE ON THAT ONE. I TOLD HIM HOWEVER THAT WE WERE CONTINUING TO DO ALL WE COULD AND THAT WE NEEDED HIS HELP AND PATIENCE. HE ASKED HOW LONG WE HAD IN MIND. I SAID I DID NOT KNOW BUT HOPED IT WOULD BE SOONIN VIEW OF THE DAY TO DAY NATURE OF THE CONTRACT

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EXTENSION.

4. HE THEN SAID IN OBVIOUS SORROW THAT HE VERY MUCH HOPED SO HE CONTINUED THE ONLY OTHER OPTION WHICH I HAVE LEFT IS WITH THE SOVIETS AND IT WILL HAVE TO BE MOVED IN CONNECTION WITH SOVIET AIR MARSHALLS VISIT HERE WHICH BEGINS IN MID MAY (WE KNOW IT BEING MAY 17) HE SAID A WEEK BEFORE THAT I MUST TELL THE SOVIETS WHETHER THEY SHOULD BRING AIR DEFENSE PEOPLE IN THE DELEGATION OR NOT. THE LAST IS PROBABLY MAY 10 AFTER THAT I WILL HAVE TO MOVE TO AVOID RUNNING MY OPTION WITH THE RUSSIANS. I SAID THAT I WOULD REPORT HIS REACTION.

5. I THEN NOTED FOR HIM THE DAMAGE VARIOUS STATEMENTS HAD CAUSED US IN THE PAST AND SAID THAT WE WANTED TO BE SURE JORDANIANS WOULD REMAIN QUIET AND ALSO MAKE NO APPROACHES TO THE SOVIETS. HE SAID THAT NOTHING WOULD HAPPEN BEFORE THE 10TH OF MAY AND HE VERY MUCH HOPED THAT WE COULD GET IT WORKED OUT BEFORE THEM. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS VERY MUCH COUNTING ON US ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT HELP BUT BE PESSIMISTIC GIVEN THE SAUDI APPROACH TO THIS PROBLEM IN THE PAST.

6. WE THEN TALKED ABOUT SEVERAL OTHER PROBLEMS WHICH I WILL REPORT IN SEPARATE CABLES SHORTLY.

7. COMMENT: KING IS GOING THROUGH THE WRINGER ON THIS. I HAVE NEVER SEEN HIM SO AGONIZED. HE BEGAN TO SHOW ME OUT OF THE DOOR IN ARABIA WHICH HE HAS NEVER DONE BEFORE AND THEN CORRECTED HIMSELF. I HAVE ALSO TOLD RIFAI AND BIN SHAKER AND KING WAS ON THE PHONE TO THEM WHILE WE WERE TALKING. I COULD NOT RAISE ADDITIONAL COST QUESTION (PARA 4 REFTEL A WITH KING) ITS JUST NOT THE KIND OF DETAIL I COULD BOTHER HIM WITH AT THE MOMENT. BUT WE WILL LET BIN SHAKER KNOW ABOUT IT TOMORROW SO THE ARMY FINANCE PEOPLE CAN KEEP IT IN MIND. PICKERING

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USCINCEUR.

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NNN

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